

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 DOE-15 H-02 INR-10 INT-05 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 ICA-20 OES-09 SP-02

SS-15 STR-07 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 CEQ-01 EPA-04 IO-14

NSF-02 /161 W

-----108265 272152Z /45

P 272125Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8212

INFO AMCONSUL CALGARY

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 OTTAWA 03751

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, CA

SUBJECT: BEAUFORT SEA DRILLING--GOC SUMMARY REPORTS

1. EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (ANNE PARK, USA DIV), CONTINUING LAST YEAR'S PRACTICE, HAS AGREED TO PROVIDE EMBASSY ON A REGULAR BASIS WITH COPIES OF WEEKLY SUMMARY REPORTS OF BEAUFORT SEA DRILLING PREPARED BY DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN AND NORTHERN AFFAIRS OFFICERS ON SITE. FOLLOWING ARE TEXTS OF PROGRESS REPORT NO. 1 (JULY 12), WEEKLY SUMMARY REPORT NO. 1 (JULY 18) AND WEEKLY SUMMARY REPORT NO. 2 (JULY 21):

2. PROGRESS REPORT NO. 1

DATE: JULY 10, 1978 2400 HOURS

EXPLORER I: UKALERK 2C-50 D.A. 906

-- DEPTH 482 FEET

-- SPUDDED 26 INCH HOLE AT 1000 HOURS

-- PREPARING TO REAM TO 36 INCH AND SET 30 INCH CASING.

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EXPLORER II: NATSEK E-56 D.A. 905

-- DEPTH 221 FEET

-- 26 INCH HOLE SPUDDED AT 2030 HOURS

-- DRILLING TO APPROXIMATELY 520 FEET TO SET 30 INCH CASING.

EXPLORER III: KAGLULIK A-75 D.A. 882

-- LAST YEAR'S DEPTH AT SUSPENSION OF OPERATIONS WAS  
1349 FEET  
-- COMPLETED RUNNING BLOW-OUT PREVENTOR (BOP) STACK AND  
RISER BUT DUE TO ICE INCURSION THE LOWER MARINE RISER  
PACKAGE WAS UNLATCHED AND PULLED 20 FEET CLEAR OF BOP STACK

-- ICE WAS OBSERVED FOR 9 HOURS AND THEN LOWER MARINE  
RISER PACKAGE WAS RELATCHED TO BOP STACK  
-- PLAN TO PRESSURE TEST BOP STACK AND RUN TEMPERATURE  
LOG TO THE BOTTOM OF THE HOLE.

3. WEEKLY SUMMARY REPORT NO. 1

DATE: TO 2400 HOURS JULY 13, 1978

EXPLORER I: UKALERK 2C-50 D.A. 906

-- DEPTH 993 FEET;  
-- DRILLING 26 INCH HOLE;  
-- ICE CONDITIONS ARE GOOD; A FEW SMALL FLOES NEAR THE  
DRILLSHIP; LARGE ICE FLOW 25 NAUTICAL MILES SOUTHEAST.

EXPLORER II: NATSEK E-56 D.A. 905

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-- DEPTH 492 FEET;  
-- DRILLING IN 36 INCH HOLE;  
-- WHILE RUNNING 30 INCH CASING DROPPED TWO JOINTS WHICH  
HAVE NOW BEEN RECOVERED;  
-- WEATHER AND ICE CONDITIONS GOOD; 3/10 ICE AROUND  
DRILLSHIP; LARGE ICE FLOES 8 NAUTICAL MILES NORTHEAST.

EXPLORER III: KAGLULIK A-75 D.A. 882

-- DEPTH 1460 FEET;  
-- DRILLING 17 1/2 INCH HOLE;  
-- EARLY PROBLEMS WITH BOP STACK HAVE NOW BEEN CORRECTED;  
-- WEATHER AND ICE CONDITIONS GOOD; NO ICE IN VICINITY  
OF DRILLSHIP; NEAREST ICE FLOW 10 NATUICAL MILES SOUTH.

NOTE: PROBLEMS DEVELOPED AT THIS WELL ON JULY 17 - SEE  
ATTACHED NOTE (SEE OTTAWA 3722 FOR TEXT).

SUPPLIER V: TINGMIARK K-91 D.A. 835

-- EQUIPMENT AND PERSONNEL DEPARTED TUK JULY 13 TO BEGIN  
SITE SURVEY;

-- GOVERNMENT OBSERVER IS ON BDARD.

GENERALLY ICE CONDITIONS HAVE IMPROVED AT EACH DRILL SITE DURING THE WEEK. HOWEVER, THE WIND IS BUILDING UP (CURRENTLY AT 25 KNOTS FROM THE NORTHEAST) AND IF IT CONTINUES THE PACK ICE COULD MOVE SOUTH AND INTERRUPT DRILLING AT ONE OR MORE OF THE SITES.

4. WEEKLY SUMMARY REPORT NO. 2

EXPLORER I: UKALERK 2C-50 D.A. 906

-- DEPTH 3706 FEET;

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-- DRILLING 20 INCH HOLE;

-- ICE AND WEATHER CONDITIONS GOOD AND DRILLING PROCEEDING NORMALLY.

EXPLORER II: NATSEK E-56 D.A. 905

-- DEPTH 1850 FEET;

-- 30 INCH CASING HAS BEEN SET AND NOW PREPARING TO DRILL 20 INCH HOLE;

-- WEATHER AND ICE CONDITIONS GOOD.

EXPLORER III: KAGLULIK A-75 D.A. 882

-- SEE SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT ATTACHED.

TINGMIARK K-91

-- SAMPLING AND SURVEY WORK COMPLETE AND PRELIMINARY  
RESULTS EXPECTED IN A WEEK

KOPANOAR D-14

-- SAMPLING AND SURVEY WORK COMPLETE AND PRELIMINARY  
RESULTS EXPECTED IN A WEEK  
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MISCELLANEOUS

-- OIL SPILL BARGE AT TUKTOYAKTUK IS STILL NOT COMPLETELY  
OPERATIONAL.

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT ON KAGLULIK A-75 D.A. 882

-- DEPTH 2115 FEET.  
-- 2240 HOURS JULY 20 ICE ENCROACHING UPON DRILL SITE AND  
WORK BOATS EXPERIENCING DIFFICULTY IN PUSHING IT AWAY.  
-- 2330 HOURS OPERATOR DECIDED TO DISCONNECT AND MOVE OFF  
LOCATION.  
-- WHILE PULLING OUT OF THE HOLE, THE ICE STARTED COMING  
TOWARD THE DRILLSHIP QUITE FAST (ESTIMATED AT 1 KNOT/HOUR).  
-- 0005 HOURS JULY 21 THE OPERATOR SHEARED THE DRILL  
PIPE, DISCONNECTED THE MARINE RISER AND THE TOP OF THE  
B.O.P.; HOWEVER, THE TENSIONERS DID NOT FUNCTION PROPERLY  
LEAVING SOME OF THE MECHANISM COMPLETELY EXPOSED.  
-- 0135 HOURS THE ICE SHEET COLLIDED WITH THE DRILLSHIP,  
PUSHING IT OFF LOCATION AND CAUSING IT TO DRAG THE MARINE  
RISE AND OTHER EQUIPMENT ALONG THE SEA FLOOR.  
-- HEADING OF SHIP BEFORE IMPACT WAS 318 DEGREES AND  
AFTER IMPACT WAS 205 DEGREES.  
--QUICK DISCONNECT SYSTEM ON ANCHORS APPEARS TO HAVE MAL-  
FUNCTIONED.  
--PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT OF DAMAGE IN MARINE RISER BENT AT  
40 DEGREE ANGLE, SUSPECT DAMAGE TO WINCHES NO. 1 AND NO. 2,  
ALL ANCHOR LINES WERE TWISTED TO ONE SIDE OF SHIP WITH TWO  
LINES DISCONNECTED, 3 LINES STILL HOLDING, ONE LINE BROKEN  
AND ONE LINE RUN OFF WINCH.  
-- 2330 HOURS JULY 23 EXPLORER III FOGGED IN FOR TWO DAYS  
8 MILES OFF LOCATION.  
--ICE IS ONLY 1 TO 2 MILES AWAY FROM KAGLULIK SITE.  
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--1100 HOURS JULY 24 HELICOPTER RECONNAISSANCE REPORTED  
MUD PLUME, 20 TO 30 FEET IN DIAMETER WITH SOME BUBBLING IN  
THE CENTER.

--SPECULATION IS THAT MUD COULD BE RESULTING FROM EMPTYING OF THE MARINE RISER AND THE BUBBLING COULD BE FROM A LEAKING SHEAR RAM.

-- EXPLORER III, A SUPPLY SHIP, 2 WORK BOATS AND A CONTINGENT OF 2 DIVERS ARE ON THEIR WAY TO THE KAGLULIK SITE TO ASSESS SITUATION (INCLUDING SAMPLING AND ANALYSIS OF ESCAPING MUD.) ENDERS

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## Message Attributes

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**Draft Date:** 27 jun 1978  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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